



## THE FRANKLIN REPORT

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# NEW YORK PRESS

CLIP

## LINCOLN MACVEAGH

REAL ESTATE

### Three Designers

**A** FRIEND RECENTLY told me that one of the harried young mothers in her women's group was concerned about redecorating the baby's room. "Do you think I can design it myself?" she asked. ■ If the answer to that question is no, not to worry: there is professional help. I spoke to three interior designers and I asked them about working in the city, about

the New York style and about their own personal tastes.

Erica Millar of Erica Millar Design has been creating New York interiors for years. According to The Franklin Report, an upscale guide to home services, Millar's designs are understated and serene: "Living rooms are generally in the \$150,000 range, before major antiques and carpets."

Millar does most of her work on the Upper East and Upper West Sides. She often works with families, so I asked her about the special considerations of designing for children.

"Homes that are friendly to children are important, because we don't have the great suburban luxury of outdoor spaces and size... You have to deal with kids' needs. Which are one thing when they're little and another as they become school age and they're doing hours of homework. So I try to keep things so that kids can grow into their rooms and not be too specific too early. When you do rooms for multiple siblings it's also how you keep it sort of democratic. So each kid feels they have some individuality and you're not just doing a

stamped-out arrangement."

Millar describes her esthetic as one of clean elegance. "I'm not someone who likes overdone interiors. I don't like a million different colors and fabrics... And not too much of a stage set. I would say that my esthetic is also based on a level of quality. I think it's a way of combining things that are expensive with things that are inexpensive to achieve a certain level of quality at a price that's affordable."

Certain of her own tastes, I asked Millar to generalize about the New York style—but she refused to bite. New York, she says, is infinitely varied. "People think there is a 'Park Avenue' look, but that's based more on the 1980s and Bonfire of the Vanities. I think if you were to go around you would see that there's really a multitude of looks... In New York there's just millions of unbelievable, unpredictable spaces inside buildings. There's lofts and formals and so many different things you can't guess. It's always very cool for me to go into a building and see the different interpretations... I think that's a wonderful part of working in the city."